

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 COME-00 OMB-01 /059 W  
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R 241009Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1375  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PEPA, UR  
SUBJECT: FOOD AVAILABILITY: RYAZAN', PENZA, UL'YANOVSK

1. SUMMARY. RYAZAN' AND PENZA OFFERED EXCELLENT SUPPLIES OF FRESH MEAT, AND SEASONAL FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN BOTH STATE STORES AND THE KOLKHOZ MARKETS. DAIRY PRODUCTS WERE ALSO IN GOOD SUPPLY. THE SITUATION IN UL'YANOVSK WAS MUCH LESS GOOD. END SUMMARY.

2. RYAZAN': NOV 14, GASTRONOM NO. 1, ON LENIN SQUARE OFFERED, AT 7 P.M., A SMALL QUANTITY OF SECOND QUALITY BEEF AT R 1.20 PER KILO (IN THIS CABLE ALL PRICES ARE RUBLES PER KILO UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED). DRIED (NO FROZEN) FISH AT PRICES FROM 0.50 TO 1.45 AND DAIRY PRODUCTS INCLUDING SOME KEFIR AND BUTTER WERE ON SALE. A MEAT SHOP ON LENING SQUARE HAD NEITHER MEAT NOR SAUSAGE (BUT DID HAVE SOME CANNED FISH) AT 7:30 P.M. THE "OGONEK" STORE AT 26, ULITSA REVOLUTSII HAD FATTY HAM AT 3.30, A GOOD SELECTION OF CHEDDAR TYPE CHEESES AND TWO GRADES OF BUTTER ON SALE AT 7:45 P.M. GASTRONOM NO. 11, AT 3, THEATRE SQUARE, WAS VISITED AT 8:00 P.M. IT OFFERED GOOD QUANTITIES OF HAM AT 3.70 SOUP BEEF (NOT VERY GOOD) AT 0.90, SECOND QUALITY

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PORK AT 2.10 AND AN ASSORTMENT (FAIR QUANTITIES) OF

FROZEN FISH AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.

3. RYAZAN': NOVEMBER 15, AT 9:30 A.M. GASTRONOM NO 1 OFFERED LARGE QUANTITIES OF VARIED DAIRY PRODUCTS INCLUDING BUTTER AND KEFIR, AND SEVERAL CHEESES, GOOD SUPPLIES OF A VARIETY OF FROZEN FISH AT FROM 0.50 TO 1.40 (INCLUDING SQUID AT 0.70) AND A SMALL QUANTITY OF SECOND QUALITY BEEF AT 1.00. OUTSIDE THIS STORE, CUBAN GRAPE-FRUIT IN LARGE QUANTITIES AT 1.40 WERE ATTRACTING LITTLE ATTENTION. THE STAND ALSO OFFERED LEMONS AT 0.25 PER LEMON, AND BAD APPLES AT 0.48. THE OGONEK STORE AT 11 A.M. HAD A LARGE QUANTITY OF DAIRY PRODUCTS OF ALL SORTS AND OFFERED TWO KINDS OF HAM AT 3.70 AND 3.30. A "DIET" SHOP ON ULITSA REVOLUTSII OFFERED, AT 11:15 A.M., A LARGE SUPPLY OF MILK (IN PYRAMIDAL PAPER CARTONS). THERE WAS A LONG QUEUE (30 TO 40 PEOPLE) FOR PLUCKED AND DRESSED CHICKEN AT 1.40. SMALL QUANTITIES OF FIRST QUALITY BEEF AT 2.00 EVOKED NO BUYER INTEREST. A BREAD SHOP AT NO. 33 ULITSA REVOLUTSII HAD, AT 12:30 P.M. A BROAD SELECTION OF BREAD (BOTH WHITE AND BLACK) IN GOOD SUPPLY. THERE WAS ALSO A SIGN LIMITING THE QUANTITIES OF DIFFERENT BAKED GOODS THAT MIGHT BE SOLD TO ANY INDIVIDUAL. THE MEAT SHOP ON LENIN SQUARE STILL HAD NO MEAT AT 1 P.M., BUT DID HAVE PORK PATTIES, BREADED AND READY TO COOK. THESE APPEARED TO EXIST IN LIMITLESS QUANTITIES AT 1.11 AND WERE EAGERLY SOUGHT AFTER BY A QUEUE OF 50-60 PEOPLE. GASTRONOM NO. 9 AT 39 ULITSA PERVOMAYSKAYA, AT 1 P.M., HAD ADEQUATE QUANTITIES OF A WIDE VARIETY OF DAIRY PRODUCTS INCLUDING MILK, KEFIR, PROSTOKVASHA, SWEET AND SOUR CREAM, BUTTER AND CHEESE. THERE WAS HONEY AT 1.65 AND, IN THE MEAT SECTION, FATTY HAM AT 3.30 AND COOKED BEEF AT 5.30. THE MILK STORE AT 59 ULITSA PERVOMAYSKAYA, VISITED AT 1:15 P.M., HAD A SIMILAR SELECTION OF DAIRY PRODUCTS IN LARGE QUANTITY, BUT NO EGGS. AN "ASSORTY" SHOP ON ULITSA PERVOMAYSKAYA WAS VISITED AT 5:30 P.M. A FAIR NUMBER OF BUYERS ON THEIR WAY HOME FROM WORK WERE QUEUING UP FOR FROZEN BEEF AT 2.00, CHEESE, HAM AT 3.70, CABBAGES AT 0.20, CARROTS AT 0.16 AND AN ASSORTMENT OF FROZEN FISH. FROZEN APPLES AT 0.15 WERE GOING UNSOLD.

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4. RYAZAN' RYNOK: RYAZAN'S RYNOK (LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN IN DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS) WAS VISITED ON THE 15TH BETWEEN 10 AND 11 A.M. THE VEGETABLE SECTION OFFERED LARGE QUANTITIES OF THE FOLLOWING (PRICES REPRESENTED AN AVERAGE): FIRST QUALITY ONIONS AT 0.80, SECOND QUALITY AT 0.60; GOOD APPLES AT 1.50, SLIGHTLY LESS GOOD ONES AT 1.00; POTATOES AT 1.00; CARROTS AT 0.60;

WATERMELONS AT 1.00: DRIED MUSHROOMS AT 1.00 PER STRING. SMALLER QUANTITIES OF EXCELLENT APPLES AT 3.50 AND 2.50, OF POMEGRANATES AT 4.00 AND OF GRAPES AT 5.00 WERE ON SALE. THERE WAS NO LETTUCE OR TOMATOES. MANY OF THE FRUIT SELLERS SEEMED TO BE OF CAUCASIAN ORIGIN, ESPECIALLY GEORGIAN. THE MEAT PAVILLION WAS ONLY ABOUT ONE QUARTER FULL, BUT THOSE STALLS THAT WERE OCCUPIED SEEMED TO HAVE LARGE QUANTITIES OF MEAT TO SELL. TOP GRADE BEEF WAS 3.00, GOOD BEEF WAS 2.80, BEEF LIVER AT 1.40. A FAIR QUANTITY OF FRESH VEAL WAS ON SALE AT 3.50 AND SMALL SUPPLIES OF LAMB WERE OFFERED AT 2.50. FIVE TURKEYS AT 10.00 EACH WERE ON SALE. THERE WERE NO OTHER FOWL.

5. PENZA: NOVEMBER 16. A LARGE BREAD STORE ON ULITSA KIROVA OFFERED, AT 11 -M., A GOOD, VARIED SELECTION OF BREADS FROM BOTH FIRST AND SECOND QUALITY FLOUR IN ABUNDANT SUPPLIES. A GASTRONOM ON ULITSA KIROVA, VISITED AT THE SAME TIME, PRODUCED LONG LINES OF PEOPLE WAITING FOR APPLIES (LARGE AMOUNTS ON SALE) AT 0.90. THERE WAS A GOOD STOCK OF VARIED DAIRY PRODUCTS INCLUDAG MILK, SWEET AND SOUR CREAM, BUTTER AND CHEESE. ONLY FOR THE MILK, IN PAPER CONTAINERS AT 0.14 PER CONTAINER, WAS THEE A LINE AND THERE WERE LARGE RESERVES. THERE WAS AN IMMENSE QUANTITY OF FIRST QUALITY KOLBASA AT 2.80, THREE KINDS OF FATTY HAM AT PRICES FROM 3.10 TO 3.50, AND A GOOD SELECTION OF FROZEN FISH IN LARGE QUANTITIES AT FROM 0.50 TO 0.90. FEATURED ALSO WERE SHRIMP AT 1.60. SOME DRIED FISH WAS ON SALE AS WELL. THE DELI-CATESSEN PART OF THE STORE WAS PROMOTING A VARIETY OF MEAT, FISH, AND POTATO PATTIES AT 0.18, 0.17 AND 0.08 PER 100 GRAM PATTY RESPECTIVELY. RAW (BEEF) HAMBURGER WAS ON SALE, TOO, AT 1.90. THE AZERBAIJAN FOOD SHOP ON ULITSA MOSKOVSKAYA HAD, AT NOON, PRACTICALLY NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AZERBAIJANI PRODUCTS BUT DID HAVE FIRST QUALITY KOL'BASA IN LARGE QUANTITY AT 2.40, AND A GOOD SELECTION OF NATURAL AND PROCESSED CHEESES. ITS DELICATESSEN PART HAD THE SAME ASSORTMENT OF PATTIES AS IN THE GASTRONOM AND AT THE SAME PRICES. AN OUTDOOR CABBAGE SELLER (ON THE MAIN STREET) HAD A LONG QUQUE OF EAGER BUYERS FOR CABBAGE AT 0.20. THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF SUPPLY. AT 12:30 P.M., THE SEL'KHOZTOVAR SHOP AT 20, ULITSA SUVOROVA, HAD LARGE SUPPLIES OF DRIED FRUITS AT 2.50, AND 20.00. RAISINS AT 3.60, CARROTS AT 0.25, POTATOES AT 0.16, APPLES AT 1.20, GARLIC AT 3.00, ONIONS AT 0.60, AND BAD QUALITY POMEGRANATES AT 1.10. A SMALL GASTRONOM AT 60, ULITSA MOSKOVSKAYA HAD, AT 1 P.M., SEEMINGLY INEXHAUSTIBLE AMOUNTS OF EXTRA QUALITY SAUSAGE AT 6.00 AND 5.30, (AT 6. 0.M., THERE WERE STILL LARGE AMOUNTS). THE SHOP ALSO HAD

FIRST QUALITY FROZEN BEEF AT 3.00, ONIONS AT 0.60,  
POTATOES AT 0.16 AND FAIR QUALITY POMEGRANATES AT 2.50.  
THE FISH SHOP AT 15, ULITSA MOSKOVSKAYA AT 2. P.M. HAD  
LONG LINES WAITING FOR A FAIR VARIETY OF FORZEN FISH,  
NOTABLY MACKEREL AT 1.10, SHRIMP AT 1.60 AND TWO  
VARIETIES OF ZHEK AT 0.70 AND 0.90. EGGS WERE ON SALE  
(1.30 FOR TEN) OUTSIDE THE FISH STORE.

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INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 COME-00 OMB-01 /059 W  
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R 241009Z NOV 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1376  
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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6. PENZA: NOVEMBER 17. AT 12:30 P.M. A MEAT SHOP AT  
90, ULITSA MOSKOVSKAYA HAD THREE QUALITIES OF KOL'BASA  
AVAILABLE (ALL IN VAST QUANTITY) AT 2.80, 3.10 AND 3.30,  
THERE WERE LONG QUEUES FOR HAM AT 3.70 AND COOKED BEEF  
AT 5.30, BUT THERE SEEMED TO BE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES. THE  
GASTRONOM ON ULITSA KIROVA HAD, AT 1.30 P.M., THE SAME  
SELECTION AS THE PREVIOUS DAY. LONG LINES BUT GOOD SUPPLIES.  
A GASTRONOM AT NO. 2 ULITSA MOSKOVSKAYA HAD ADEQUATE  
SUPPLIES OF KOL'BASA AT 2.80 AND A GOOD QUANTITY OF  
VARIOUS DAIRY PRODUCTS (NOT INCLUDING MILK). LONG LINES  
BUT ADEQUATE SUPPLIES AT 3:45 P.M. THE SMALLHXASTRONOM  
ON ULITSA MOSKOVSKAYA STILL HAD (AT 5 P.M.) AS GOOD SUPPLIES  
OF THE EXTRA QUALITY SAUSAGE AND FROZEN BEEF AS THE DAY  
BEFORE.

7. PENZA RYNOK: PENZA'S CENTRAL MEAT RYNOK WAS VISITED

BETWEEN 11 A.M. AND NOON ON THE 16TH, AND BETWEEN 12:30 AND 1 P.M. ON THE 17TH. PRICES IN THE RYNOK ARE SET BY THE RYNOK COUNCIL AND CLEARLY POSTED IN SEVERAL PLACES. FIRST QUALITY LAMB AND BEEF WERE GOING FOR 3.50 AND FIRST QUALITY PORK FOR 3.00. MOST OF THE MEAT ON SALE WAS PORK. THERE WERE LONG LINES; SUPPLIES SEEMED ADEQUATE ON BOTH DAYS. THE MEAT ON SALE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNUSUALLY FRESH AND WELL-PRESENTED. A SMALL NUMBER OF RABBITS (PERHAPS 10) WAS ON SALE BOTH DAYS AT 8.00 PER ANIMAL. DUCKS (PLUCKED AND DRESSED) WERE ON SALE AT 7.00 AND 5.00 EACH AND GEESE WERE GOING FOR 12.00 AND 13.00 EACH. THERE WERE AS MANY AS 50 DUCKS AND GEESE ON SALE AND THERE SEEMED TO BE A GOOD MANY MORE WAITING TO BE SOLD. PENZA'S NEW, WELL-...-8,5-8,ED FRUIT AND VEGETABLE RYNOK IS ALSO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY. THE RYNOK COUNCIL SETS THE PRICES THERE AS WELL. THE STALLS WERE PERHAPS THREE QUARTERS FULL AT 10 A.M. ON THE 17TH. THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE ALL AVAILABLE IN LARGE QUANTITIES, AND BUSINESS WAS BRISK: POTATOES 0.30; CABBAGES 0.70 AND 0.05; CARROTS 0.30; ONIONS 0.50; GREEN ONIONS 2.00; CUCUMBERS 1.50; APPLES 1.80; PEARS 3.50; AND 2.50; GRAPES 3.00; MELONS 1.00; POMEGRANATES 4.00. THERE WERE NO TOMATOES ALTHOUGH A PRICE FOR THEM WAS POSTED. EGGS WERE SELLING FOR 1.50 FOR TEN. AS WAS THE CASE IN RYAZAN', MANY OF THE FRUIT SELLERS SEEMED GEORGIAN AND THERE WERE SOME UZBEKS AS WELL.

8. UL'YANOVSK, NOVEMBER 18. AT 3 P.M. A SMALL FOOD SHOP AT 3, ULITSA MINAEVA HAD A GOOD ASSORTMENT OF BREAD, NO MEAT AT ALL, BUT SOME POOR KOL'BASA AT 1.00. THERE WAS A LONG LINE FOR THE LATTER. THERE WERE AMPLE SUPPLIES OF DAIRY PRODUCTS INCLUDING KEFIR, SOUR CREAM AND SOME MILK, THE LATTER AT 0.16. THERE WAS NO BUTTER MEAT PATTIES AT 1.11 WERE ALMOST SOLD OUT. A SMALL FISH SECTION HAD THE USUAL ASSORTMENT OF FROZEN FISH AT PRICES FROM 0.50 TO 1.10. A LARGE FOOD SHOP ON ULITSA GONCHAROVA OFFERED, AT 3.30 P.M., A BROAD ASSORTMENT OF FROZEN FISH (0.20 TO 1.10 AND SHRIMP AT 1.60). BUTTER AT 3.00 WAS ON SALE IN ADDITION TO OTHER DAIRY PRODUCTS. THERE WAS A LONG LINE FOR LARD AT 0.90 AND FOR SMALL QUANTITIES OF UNUSUALLY FATTY HAM AT 3.50. BREAD, MOSTLY BLACK, WAS AVAILABLE IN LARGE AMOUNTS. A "DIET" SHOP AT 5, ULITSA GONCHAROVA HAD, AT 3.45 P.M., THE USUAL ASSORTMENT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS INCLUDING MILK (BOTH BOTTLES AND CARTONS) IN LARGE QUANTITIES. BUTTER AT 3.00 AND 3.20. THERE WAS A LONG QUEUE FOR KOL'BASA AT 2.60 AND FOR EGGS AT 1.30 FOR TEN. ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF BOTH WERE ON HAND. A FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SHOP NEXT DOOR AT NO. 7 ULITSA GONCHAROVA

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HAD RECEIVED A GREAT SUPPLY OF GOOD QUALITY HUNGARIAN APPLES, SELLING WELL AT 1.10. ALSO THERE WERE RADISHES AT 0.10, ONIONS 0.10, CARROTS 0.16, AND POTATOES AT 0.08. MUCH INTEREST WAS DISPLAYED IN CABBAGE AT 0.20 (QUEUE OF 60). A LARGE FOOD SHOP ON THE CORNER OF ULITSA GONCHAROVA AND ULITSA LENINA HAD AN UNUSUALLY WIDE VARIETY OF FISH, INCLUDING MACKEREL FILLETS AT 1.20 AND SHRIMP AT 1.60. THERE WAS AN ACRIMONIOUS QUEUE OF TRULY HEROIC LENGTHS FOR KOL'BASA AT 2.60 AND 1.20 AND FATTY BACON AT 2.00, WITH ONLY LIMITED SUPPLIES AVAILABLE.

9. UL'YANOVSK, NOVEMBER 19: A LARGE FOOD STORE AT 55, ULITSA GONCHAROVA HAD, AT 10:45 A.M., NEITHER MEAT NOR KOL'BASA. BUTTER AT 3.00 ATTRACTED ABOUT 20 PEOPLE. THERE WAS A GOOD SELECTION OF CHEESE AT 2.90, 2.60 AND 2.30, I GOOD SUPPLY. ALSO AVAILABLE WERE KEFIR AND A SMALL QUANTITY OF MILK. THE "DARY RIBA" FISH SHOP AT 19, ULITSA KARLA MARKSA WAS VISITED AT 11. A.M. THERE WERE GOOD QUANTITIES AND LOTS OF EAGER SHOPPERS. THE ASSORTMENT OF FROZEN AND PRESERVED FISH WAS STANDARD GOOD QUANTITIES OBTAINED. THERE WAS NO FRESH FISH. THE SMALL BREAD SHOP ON THE CORNER OF ULITSA KARLA MARKSA AND ULITSA MARATA HAD BREAD, MOSTLY OF SECOND-QUALITY FLOUR, BUT IN GOOD QUANTITIES. A STAND ON ULITSA MARATA HAD PERHAPS 20 DOZEN EGGS AT 1.30 FOR TEN. A SMALL FOOD SHOP AT 55, ULITSA GONCHAROVA WAS VISITED AT NOON. IT OFFERED CHEESE AT 2.90 AND 2.60 AND BUTTER AT 3.00. THERE WERE ADEQUATE QUANTITIES OF ALL OF THESE BUT NO OTHER DAIRY PRODUCTS OF ANY SORT.

10. UL'YANOVSK RYNOK: THE TSENTRAL'NIY RYNOK WAS VISITED BETWEEN 11 A.M AND NOON ON THE 19TH. (THERE ARE 5 RYNKI IN UL'YANOVSK. THE TSENTRAL'NIY IS THE LARGEST.) THE SMALL AND RUN DOWN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PAVILLION 2- \*7)) 59 9;34\*)928,&. IN GENERAL, THE QUALITY OF THE PRODUCTS WAS MARKEDLY LOWER THAN IN RYAZAN' AND PENZA THOUGH QUANTITIES WERE MOSTLY ADEQUATE. APPLES WENT FROM 2.50 TO 0.50, DEPENDING ON QUALITY. PEARS WERE 3.00 AND 2.00 (THE BETTER PEARS CAME FROM CHERNOVTSI AND WERE IN SHORT SUPPLY.) TADJIKS WERE SELLING POMEGRANATES AT 2.50 AND 2.00. CABBAGE WAS 0.70, BEST ONIONS

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AND CARROTS WERE 0.80. AN OUTDOOR STALL SOLD CHICKEN

(PLUCHED AND DRESSED) AT 3.20. THERE WERE ABOUT 75 CHICKENS AND GOOD BUYER INTEREST. THE CHICKENS APPEARED TO HAVE COME FROM A STATE STORE, NOT A KOLKHOZ. THREE PEOPLE SELLING HONEY AT 4.00 WERE DOING A GOOD BUSINESS. THE MEAT PAVILLION WAS ABOUT HALF FULL. THE APPROXIMATELY 20 LARGE, PLUCKED AND DRESSED GEESE WERE PRICED AT 14.00 AND 16.00 PER BIRD. THERE WAS NO OTHER FOWL. THERE WERE LONG LINES FOR SMALL QUANTITIES OF FIRST QUALITY BEEF AND PORK AT 3.00 AND 3.50, RESPECTIVELY. S SMALL BACK ROOM IN THE MEAT PAVILLION WAS, HOWEVER, ABOUT ONE HALF FULL OF MEAT WAITING TO BE BUTCHERED. THERE WAS LITTLE SECOND QUALITY MEAT ON OFFER.

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## Message Attributes

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